SHE Program improvements targeted through self-assessment

by Lesley Guerin
Marshall Safety Office

All civil service and contractor organizations recently participated in the self-assessment of Safety, Health and Environmental Program implementation at the Marshall Center.

The self-assessment activity was designed to refresh supervisor awareness of their Safety, Health and Environmental Program management responsibilities, identify program weaknesses occurring across a significant number of Center organizations and define corrective actions needed to assure compliance with internal directive documents.

Supervisory personnel responded to a 41-item questionnaire presented in a checklist format.

Ten significant improvement areas identified by Marshall personnel are listed below. Discussions are under way to identify the most effective and efficient strategies for implementing the needed improvements.

- Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) availability and accessibility
- Defining and posting work area housekeeping rules
- Promoting employee membership in Marshall's Safety Action Team and participation in other safety activities
- Safety assessment of operations and identifying Facility Risk Indicator
- Reviewing and working organization results on FY2001 Protective Equipment Program Summary Survey
- Adequate organization resources to correct hazardous conditions
- Scheduling and/or completion of required Safety, Environmental and Health training
- Completing safety assessment(s) required for designated Facility Risk Indicator
- Safety Concerns Reporting System submission knowledge and ability
- Employee participation in goal-setting, hazard assessment, mishap investigation, etc.

The writer is employed by Hernandez Engineering Inc.

Space Transportation

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of a review in March 2002.

An additional award of $5.4 million is being made to the Boeing Company in Seal Beach, Calif., to initiate studies in crew-survivability and crew-escape systems technologies, a project unique to NASA. A primary goal of SLI is to reduce the risk of space travel — making flight much safer than today's reusable launch system.

Rocketdyne Propulsion and Power, a division of the Boeing Company, located in Canoga Park, Calif., and TRW in Redondo Beach, Calif., have also been awarded options for existing contracts for potential continued work on advanced propulsion systems. Rocketdyne could receive an additional $63.0 million; TRW could receive $5.4 million.

The activities initiated by these awards are not intended to provide a specific vehicle design, but are the first step in developing a set of alternative technologies for a new generation of launch systems and associated space transportation operations. These evolutionary technologies include crew survival systems, advanced tanks and airframe structures, long-life rocket engines and robust thermal protection systems.

The SLI investment is expected to pay off with full-scale spacecraft development options around mid-decade.

NASA is investing money and other resources in technical and business studies, hardware development, and laboratory and flight tests that will lower the risk of developing a second-generation reusable launch vehicle.

"Right now we are bringing together teams of experts who can help us expand from our baseline. We need to make sure we identify areas that merit additional research and development and pursue those," said Dennis Smith, manager of NASA's Second Generation Reusable Launch Vehicle program. "Improving access to space is an ambitious goal and we take it seriously. Sharply reducing the cost of getting payloads into orbit is the key to our future in space and to U.S. economic competitiveness."

The planned budget for the Space Launch Initiative totals $4.8 billion through fiscal year 2006.

All NASA's field centers and the Air Force Research Laboratory are actively participating in the Space Launch Initiative. The Marshall Center is NASA's lead center for SLI.

Additional information on NASA's Space Launch Initiative, including a list of the selected contractors, is available on the Internet at:
http://www.slinews.com or *http://www.spacetransportation.com*

Obituaries

Champion, Ray H., 79, of Somerville, died Nov. 29. He retired from Marshall in 1975 where he worked as an aerospace engineering technician.

Sorenson, Victor C., 85, of Huntsville, died Dec. 3. He retired from Marshall in 1971 where he was the director of Management Services. He is survived by his wife, Catherine Sorenson.

Way, Arthur L., 83, of Huntsville, died Dec. 3. He retired from Marshall in 1993 where he worked as an aerospace engineer. He is survived by his wife, Ruth H. Way.